THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) In terms of employment, the number of personnel employed in IT Software and Services sector as per National Association of Software and Services Company (NASSCOM) during the last three years are as follows:

1998-99	2,80,000
1999-2000	3,40,000
2000-2001	4,10,000

(d) There is no drop. Hence, the question does not arise.

Annual growth rate of I.T. industry

†1203. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual growth rate of Information Technology industry in the country has been increasing constantly during the last three years;

(b) if so, the annual growth rate during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) whether there are estimates of increase in the number of people working in the said industry; and

(d) if so, the number of people working in the said industry at the end of each of the above years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Year-wise growth rates is:

Year	Growth Rate
1998-99	35.60%
1999-2000	43.08%
2000-01	53.45%

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Number of persons employed:

1998-99	220,000
1999-2000	284,000
2000-01	430,114

Change of headquarters of post offices in Bihar

1204. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director, Eastern Region postal network had received any representation forwarded by Members of Parliament for change of headquarters of Tetar and Airi post offices from Nawada to Gaya in September, 2001;

(b) if so, what action has since been taken in the matter; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor and by when appropriate action would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No representation to this effect was received in Bihar Circle from Members of Parliament in September, 2001. There is no post of Director Eastern Region.

(c) As a result of creation of a new Postal Division with headquarters at Nawada subsequently, it has been found advantageous to place Tetar and Airi (Iyer) BOs in account with Gaya Head Post Office for better financing and delivery of mails. Orders in this regard have been issued on 5.3.2002.